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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250  
December 19, 2005

Charles Johnson  
Chief Financial Officer  
Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 514-G  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We are writing in regard to your compliance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (IPIA). As part of our oversight of the effectiveness and efficiency of Federal financial management, we want to identify ways to reduce improper payments and efficiently use the taxpayers' money. We appreciated the time your staff took with Robin Landauer and John Kilvington of our Subcommittee staff a few weeks ago to detail the challenges HHS faces in reporting improper payments in the following programs: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Foster Care; State Children's Health Insurance Program; and Child Care. In order for our Subcommittee to carry out effective oversight of IPIA, and document challenges agencies have in obtaining full compliance, please detail the following:

- 1) The steps that you have taken over the last 3 years to estimate and lower improper payments in the previously mentioned programs;
- 2) What steps you plan to take in the current and future fiscal years including specific goals for reductions;
- 3) What, if any, incentives are currently in place to encourage reporting of improper payments.
- 4) Challenges your agency faces in meeting IPIA requirements; and
- 5) Ways in which Congress can help you meet the goals that you have set;

Additionally, please explain challenges in, and the status of, reporting and reducing improper payments in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Please provide and return the requested information to

Liz Scranton, Chief Clerk  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
439 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Please contact Robin Landauer with Senator Coburn's staff at 202.224.2254 or John Kilvington with Senator Carper's staff at 202.224.7061 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Tom Coburn  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,  
Government Information, and International Security



Tom Carper  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,  
Government Information, and International Security